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By Barbara Davis
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Attorney Docket No.: GRAT 19511

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : **Thomas HÜRLAND, et al.**
Serial No. : **Concurrently Herewith**
Filed : **Concurrently Herewith**
Title : **Balloon for Preparing for and Easing Human Birth**

March 20, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of the International Search Report. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the International Search Report.

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

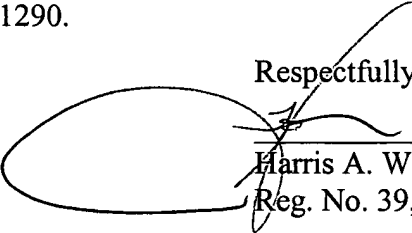
The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete

search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | Kind Code if known ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | US 4 338 943 | | OKAMOTO ET AL. | 07/13/1982 | |
| | | US 4 018 230 | | OCHIAI ET AL. | 04/19/1977 | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | Country | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY |
| | | EP 0663197 | | EP | HAMMERSEN ECKEHARD DR | 07/19/1995 |
| | | DE 197 15 724 | | DE | HORKEL | 10/29/1998 |
| | | CH 346 971 | | CH | SOKOL | 06/15/1960 |
| | | WO 81/01098 | | WO | A. VAN DER ZON | 04/30/1981 |

| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
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